

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:04p.m. Mr. Sommer made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Green to go into Executive Session under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (1) Discussion of request under Article 12.3 of the Custodial Maintenance Association and 42-46-5 (a) (8) Collective Bargaining-Paraprofessional Contract, and Legal Review and Contract Renewal.

Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. David Green; Mr. Jack Sommer, Mr. Paul Martin, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:40p.m.) Mr. Robert Durant, Vice Chair and Mrs.

Mary Ellen Winters were absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent, and Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford were also in attendance.

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to order

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of the Archie Cole Middle School at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford. Dr. Gifford announced the School Committee took a vote during Executive Session regarding an

employee's worker compensation. The vote was in favor of the employee (5-0).

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Mrs. Chris Perrett spoke about the foreign language survey that she sent out to parents via the district list serv. The survey asked questions regarding what foreign languages parents would like to see offered in the future. Mrs. Perrett received approximately 270 responses using Survey Monkey. Mrs. Perrett would like the results announced and published on the district website. Since this topic was brought up during public comments with limited time, Dr. Gifford asked that Mrs. Perrett attend a future meeting and discuss what prompted her survey, explain her results, and tell the Committee what she hopes to accomplish.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular for Joint Meeting with Town Council on 8/25/11

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, The Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the minutes.

b. Regular for 9/16/11 and Regular and Executive for 9/20/11

Minutes were tabled until the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum (due to Dr. Gifford and Mr. Martin abstaining). Mrs. Records questioned the regular minutes of 9/16/11 asking if Mr. Winikur of SBS stated there was an entrance from the outside into the East Greenwich High School Library. Dr. Mercurio stated there is an entrance in the back of the library mainly for safety egress.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio reported the new school website is up and running. The last open house is scheduled for Thursday at Cole. Dr. Mercurio thanked administrators, staff, and parents for their support and participation at the open houses. Attendance has been close to 100% in all buildings. NECAP Science scores were released last week with East Greenwich ranking #1 in the state. Staff members of the Science department will be recognized at the next School Committee meeting. The screening committee for the Director of Technology position will meet Friday morning to review applications and select candidates to interview. Thirty-eight applications were received and 7-10 candidates will be chosen for the interviews.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin asked why his evaluation information for the Superintendent's review was not included in the final results. Mr. Martin and Mrs. Records discussed this issue. Dr. Gifford will arrange to have Mr. Martin's information included. Mr. Martín would like teacher attendance discussed at a future School Committee meeting. He would like to recognize "good attendance" at the end of the school year. Dr. Gifford asked Mr. Martin to work with Mrs. Crawford to determine baseline attendance figures and present a proposal at a future meeting.

VII. Action Items

a. Home School Approval – grades 1 & 3

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the home school

request. Mr. Sommer asked if this request is a parent's wish for the betterment of the student. Dr. Mercurio confirmed that it is. Dr. Gifford would like the Policy Sub-Committee to review the home school policy and clarify the language. The process needs to be standardized in the same fashion as the employee appointment process.

b. Second Read/Adoption of revised policies

The policies listed below received a second read and adoption. Edits were made to Policy #1130 under #3. On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adopt Policies #1110, #1115, #1130 (with edits), #6110, and #6120.

1. Policy #1110 Statement of Philosophy

2. Policy #1115 Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical Standards for School Committee Members

3. Policy #1130 Guide to Rhode Island's Laws on Open Meetings and Public Records

4. Policy #6110 Community Outreach

5. Policy #6120 School Visits

c. Charge for facility sub-committee

Dr. Mercurio submitted the charge with revisions adding the school site, Archie Cole Middle School and inserting the necessary criteria associated with an individual's contribution. Mr. Martin would like to be part of the sub-committee. Dr. Gifford noted the School Committee Chair is listed as the School Committee participant in the policy, but will work with the Committee to select the recipient. Dr.

Gifford would like a generic statement added to the charge that describes the candidate's personal character. The individual should "demonstrate personal characteristics that are consistent with the values and vision of East Greenwich Public Schools." On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the charge with the revisions noted.

d. School Committee Scholarship Recommendation

Mr. Martin said the recipient of the School Committee Scholarship will be present at the next meeting to receive the \$1000 scholarship. This scholarship is funded through donations by School Committee members who have served at least four years. Some funds were received from members who served on the committee as far back as 1978.

e. School Calendar 2011-12

Due to the hurricane, three school days need to be made up. Dr. Mercurio is recommending that December 23, 2011, June 15, 2012, and June 18, 2012 be added as full days of school. This calendar may need to be revisited if there are additional days missed due to inclement weather. The bargaining units are aware of the calendar changes. At a future meeting, Dr. Gifford would like a detailed report outlining the time spent in school during mid-terms and senior exhibition. On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the revisions.

f. ESCO

At the May 17, 2011 School Committee meeting, the Committee voted to move forward with ESCO. Due to the RIDE moratorium some project items are now off the table and the 40% reimbursement from RIDE is no longer available. The Committee needs a motion to go back and revisit the original ESCO proposal. On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to revisit the ESCO proposal. The town has been charged to explore an ESCO partnership with the schools. They plan to use stimulus dollars to support this project. The ESCO project needs to remain self-funding with zero budget impact at the school level. Separate contracts will be initiated for the town and the schools. Mr. Fare and Mr. Trombley from Schneider Electric were present to discuss the ESCO proposal. Three project options were discussed. The base project totals \$1.4 million and includes renovations such as digital controls throughout the schools, energy management, added comfort level for students, water conservation, and envelope repairs to the doors and windows. Mr. Sommer asked for clarification on costs. Mr. Trombley discussed the costs noting there are incentives through National Grid. Mr. Green questioned whether the base project is the same project that was presented previously. Mr. Trombley confirmed that it is. Dr. Gifford discussed the high school lighting that needs updating. Dr. Mercurio will check on updates with Mr. Winikur. Mr. Sommer asked whether lighting can be added to the base project. It can be added, but scaled down due to the lack of RIDE reimbursement. Mr. Trombley said client-initiated change orders can be submitted on a line by line

basis. All change orders need to be submitted to the School Committee for approval. Dr. Gifford would like language regarding the change order added to the motion. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Martín, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to re-enter into negotiations for the proposed \$1.4 million project with potential change orders which need School Committee approval.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. East Greenwich High School Library Update

Dr. Mercurio has not received the final building permit from the fire department. Final documents should be completed Friday and Burman will move forward. Mr. Sommer asked whether the strength of the gym floor was checked with SBS. Dr. Mercurio believes it was, but will follow up with Ken Romeo.

b. Meadowbrook Renovation

SBS is doing a walk-through this week with consultants. A construction schedule and fee structure is being developed. Dr. Gifford questioned the status of the Cole softball field. Dr. Mercurio said contingency money will be used to change the softball field to a clay field. He noted the clay mix was a change order and is not sure of the cost. Mr. Sommer was questioned by a taxpayer and would like confirmation from Dr. Mercurio to confirm this was a change order. Dr. Mercurio will check with SBS.

c. Governmental Accounting Standards Board No.45 (GASB45)

Mrs. Crawford briefly discussed the GASB45 report which outlines post-retirement benefits. The teachers' union is the only bargaining

group eligible for two years' of health and dental coverage. Every two years this study is done to calculate post-retirement benefits and costs. This report outlines the annual required contribution, the amount recognized in an employer's financial statement as the required annual contribution to a defined benefit OPEB plan. Components include normal cost, interest cost, actual return on OPEG liability/asset, gain and loss, and amortization of gains and losses. As a district, we could begin to fund the ARC. However, a trust fund must be set up, so the set aside is not subject to the creditors of the local government. It is her understanding that funding the ARC is each individual state's decision. This report is strictly informational and the figures are included in the notes of financial statements. We are funding on a pay-as-you go method based on the number of retirees each year. Currently there are 10-12 retirees. Medicaid and health coverage were discussed. Dr. Gifford would like the Finance Committee to review the GASB45.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Martin, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 8:07p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY